



MSRB

Retiree eNews Bulletin

March 2020 eNews

MSRB Special Announcement

Due to the ongoing general public health concerns, we wanted to remind you of some changes to day to day operations at the Retirement Board's Boston and Springfield offices.

To try and reduce risk and opportunities of exposure, beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020, the Board modified its available onsite workforce to permit some staff to work remotely. We will continue our regular hours of operations at both office locations.

Please note: the reduced staffing will not impact the issuance of monthly benefit payments scheduled for March 31, 2020.

More importantly, we will be suspending in-person visits by active and retired members for the time being and ask that all retirement benefit related questions be addressed by email or by telephone.

Due to the continually changing situation, please check our website, www.mass.gov/retirement, and Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/mass.state.retirement> pages often for any updates on the Board's operations.

Additionally, the SMART Plan's Winter Street location at the Massachusetts State Retirement Board will be closed to visitors through April 3rd. SMART Plan advisors

Did You Know?

MA Information on the Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is working closely with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide updated information about the novel coronavirus outbreak.

For the most up-to-date Massachusetts COVID-19 updates, visit <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>.

Massachusetts 2-1-1

Massachusetts 2-1-1 is another resource for up-to-date information about the COVID-19.

Call 2-1-1, or visit <https://mass211.org>. Please note, 2-1-1 is currently experiencing an increased volume of calls. They appreciate your patience.

Social Security Number Safety

The Retirement Board has received inquiries and e-mails where members are adding their full Social Security Numbers or other personally identifiable

are still available to assist you at any time. Please click on this link to find the Advisor for your location: <https://docs.empower-retirement.com/EE/Massachusetts/DOCS/Territory-Map.pdf>

We apologize for any inconvenience and look forward to continuing to serve you.

WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THE MEANTIME:

Please feel free to reach out to us by telephone to speak with MSRB staff regarding your benefits-related questions, or you can email our office. Staff will respond to you within a day or two.

Telephone: (617) 367-7770; (413) 730-6135; 1-800-392-6014 (In Mass. Only)

Email:

- SRB Main
email: srb@tre.state.ma.us
- Communications:
MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us
- Survivor Benefits (report a member or survivor's death):
survivorbenefits@tre.state.ma.us
- Buyback (Service Purchases):
buyback@tre.state.ma.us

PLEASE BE ON ALERT FOR FRAUD:

Be aware of questionable emails related to your retirement benefits. Scammers capitalize on "hot news topics," such as the Coronavirus, to trick you into clicking on their websites and emails.

- Always first check the sender's email address to look for grammatical errors or questionable spellings;
- Emails from the State Retirement Board will ALWAYS come from staff that end with @tre.state.ma.us;
- The MSRB will NEVER ask you for personal information via email or ask you to send such information via email. Please don't ever email your

information to their message. We want to remind you that such information is susceptible to being stolen when transferred over the Internet. It puts you at risk of identity theft and scams and is just as dangerous as putting your number on a postcard through the mail. The MSRB will never need your full Social Security Number through e-mail.

Instead, you can use your MSRB Member ID number, which can be found on most correspondence from the MSRB.

Please be careful in providing any of your personal information through e-mail. In today's technological climate, it is more important than ever to keep your identity protected online.



Weekly Coffee or Tea with MSRB Facebook Live Streaming

Join us every Wednesday* for our weekly [Facebook Live show](#). "Weekly Coffee or Tea with MSRB" is your chance to ask general pension questions to State Retirement Board staff.

Please note, we are not able to answer any specific questions regarding personal information. Please do not provide us with any personal information such as Social Security number or

full social security number.

GIC Annual Health Benefits Open Enrollment: *April 6 - May 1, 2020 (changes become effective on July 1, 2020)*

The GIC (Group Insurance Commission) open enrollment period allows you to review your current health and dental benefit options and select a new health plan.

GIC Health Fairs Canceled

As of this writing, the GIC Health Fairs have been canceled. Please visit the GIC's website at mass.gov/gic for the most up-to-date information and schedule updates.

What You Should Know about GIC Health Benefits and the COVID-19 Outbreak

The GIC provides several resources to help members cope with the COVID-19 Pandemic. [Click here to access the online information.](#)

For all other GIC related questions, please visit the [GIC website](#), or call them at (617) 727-2310. MSRB staff is not able to answer GIC related questions. Thank you!



Treasurer Goldberg Launches BabySteps Savings Plan

*Statewide Educational Savings Program with
\$50 Deposit to all Newborns*

address as Facebook is a public platform that can be viewed by anyone.

You can also email your questions in advance to MSRBcommunications@tre.state.ma.us. We hope you'll join us!

*Schedule subject to change. Check our Facebook page for updates.

My Financial Life MA: Economic Empowerment for Every Life Stage

MyFinancialLifeMA.org is a website that provides the tools and knowledge you need to achieve economic security now and in the future. Brought to you by the Office of the Treasurer, the website offers practical and clear answers to many financial questions you may have and guide you down the right path going forward. The site provides educational videos and other interactive resources, such as financial calculators.

Visit My Financial Life MA to begin exploring what the website has to offer.

The Massachusetts State Retirement Board wishes everyone a healthy Spring season!

Have you, or are you planning to move?

If so, be sure to notify the Board of your address change! Retirees who already have summer and winter addresses on file with the Board can call us to request the address update. Otherwise, you'll need to notify the Board in writing. You can download our Change of Address form [here](#)!

Past issues of our newsletter publications

On New Year's Day 2020, State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg kicked off her BabySteps Savings Plan, the first Massachusetts statewide college and vocational training savings program. Every child born or adopted in Massachusetts on or after January 1, 2020, is now eligible for a free \$50 deposit into a post-secondary education savings account.

All new parents and/or guardians in Massachusetts will have up to one year after the child is born or adopted to open a U.Fund 529 college savings account in order to receive the \$50 deposit. The program encourages families to save for future learning, fosters aspirations of higher education, and delivers free financial education resources and tools to all program participants.

"With rising costs, the path forward is unclear for many of our kids," said Treasurer Deborah Goldberg. "BabySteps will encourage thoughtful planning for higher education and vocational training for children across Massachusetts."

For more information, visit BabyStepsSavingsPlan.org or email us at info@babystepssavingsplan.org.

Is there something you would like us to communicate in an upcoming **Retiree eNews Bulletin**? If so, let us know!

Please e-mail your request or comments to

MSRBCommunications@tre.state.ma.us.

We look forward to hearing from you!

can be found on our [website](#).

Quick links: Visit our website: www.mass.gov/retirement.

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/mass.state.retirement.

Follow us on Twitter @MassStateRet: <https://twitter.com/massstateret>.

Contact us:

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Springfield, MA 01103

Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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